

JOURNAL

of the

Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC1

OR PRIVATE CIRCULATION AMONG MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES ONLY

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1949

VOL. XXXV—No. 650

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Annual Report of the Council for 1948	2
Annual Accounts	9
Report on a Visit to the United States By R. H. Thouless	14
Editor's Notes	17
Correspondence : The Psi Processes	19
Reviews	20
Donations: Meetings of Council: Meeting of the Society	25
New Members	26

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

will be held in the Library at 31 Tavistock Square
on THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 1949, at 3 p.m.

*to transact the business set out in the formal notice dated
21 January 1949, and already circulated.*

It will be followed by a talk by DR A. J. C. WILSON on
HOW DO BIRDS NAVIGATE ?

An account of recent experiments with homing pigeons.

N.B.—Members alone have the right *to take part* in the business of the
Annual General Meeting, but Associates *may be present*.

PRIVATE MEETINGS

ON Saturday, 5 March, at 2.30 p.m. MR RICHARD WILSON will read a
paper on THE USE OF PHYSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

On Tuesday, 15 March, at 6.30 p.m., MAJOR C. A. POGSON, M.C., will
give a talk on DOWSING, followed by a discussion. Major Pogson was
official water-diviner to the Government of Bombay from 1925 to 1930.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1948

(i) FINANCIAL POSITION

WHILE the Council are gratified to record a further substantial rise in the membership of the Society, with a consequent increase in the income from subscriptions, they feel it their duty to point out forcibly to members of the Society that expenses are increasing still more rapidly, and that unless it is possible largely to increase the Society's income, some curtailment of its activities is inevitable. The cost of printing has nearly doubled in the last ten years, and the Council are quite unable at present costs to print either the *Proceedings* or the *Journal* on the liberal scale to which members were accustomed a generation ago. The point has already been reached at which it is necessary to grade papers for *Proceedings* according to a scale of priorities, which may involve indefinite postponement of the publication of some articles of probable interest to members and valuable to future research. They have therefore decided that no reduction in the present expenditure on printing should be contemplated.

They are equally reluctant to pursue any policy that might limit the Society's research activities. In order to put the Society in a position to engage with confidence in an active research policy, they strongly urge all members to give support to the appeal which will shortly be circulated. They at the same time take this opportunity of expressing warm appreciation of the generous gifts acknowledged elsewhere in this issue.

(ii) RESEARCH OFFICER'S REPORT

The year's work has been fruitful in the development of methods of investigation, and has yielded a number of cases of great psychological interest, but fresh psychic material with which to experiment in a scientific manner is still conspicuously absent. This is not due to any lack of interest in the subject. Inquiries from members of the public have increased. During the year, the research department dealt with some 1,500 letters.

E.S.P.

Quantitative guessing experiments carried out during 1947 were continued in 1948, but still without any significant results. Advertisements were inserted in the press asking for volunteer subjects.

In the last Annual Report mention was of experiments with a gentleman who seemed to be able to locate a small object placed inside one of a number of similar boxes. The results were at first highly suggestive of a paranormal effect, but as the experiment became more systematic and the conditions more rigorous, the effect faded away. This may have been an example of decline, for when the conditions of the original successes were reinstated, the results remained null.

Investigation in this field is held up for lack of subjects who can produce extra-chance scores. Dr Soal continues to experiment with his subject, Mrs Gloria Stewart, but surely there must be others waiting to be discovered. It is one of the ways in which members can help further research to try simple card-guessing experiments among their friends until a high-scoring subject is found.

Spontaneous Cases

Now that circumstances permit a more thorough investigation of cases than has been practicable in recent years, it has been possible to raise the evidential standard of cases printed in the *Journal*, with the result that a smaller proportion of cases investigated comes to the notice of members. For instance, during the year at least a score of hauntings were reported, and about a dozen poltergeists. With two exceptions which are still under investigation, none of the haunts provided evidence of any psychic agency. The Dance Hall Case, reported in the *Journal* for October-November 1948, is an example in which there was an obvious psychological motive for making the most of the story. In another case the motive was desire to get away from a particular house. Most of the haunts, however, were either stories of apparitions corresponding to nothing in particular (almost certainly sporadic hallucinations) or else they consisted of accounts of events too remote in time for thorough investigation.

The poltergeists were a little more amusing. One young Irish housemaid of low intelligence succeeded in reducing an old cook to a state of object terror and setting a whole household in disorder by her destructive activities, which were attributed to a poltergeist. The motive was not clearly established, but it was probably connected with the well-known craving for attention which is a characteristic of hysterical personalities. In another case, a young man was assailed by poltergeist phenomena and was threatened by messages, spelled out in raps, which ordered him to give up a certain girl friend. On investigation it appeared that a brother who disapproved of the girl had taken advantage of the young man's credulity to use these peculiar methods of persuasion. In other cases, even though there was an apparently normal explanation of the 'phenomena', the motive was not always obvious.

Spontaneous psychic impressions, especially dreams, continue to be reported frequently. In nearly all of these accounts, the possibility of normal explanation is clear, and they are put away in the Society's private files. These records may be of interest from points of view other than evidential value, and any member who cares to study them can do so on application to the Research Officer.

Predictions based upon psychic impressions are occasionally deposited with the Society to await fulfilment. Some of these are mentioned in *Proceedings*, Part 175, p. 260, but since then more have accumulated. None of them has as yet been fulfilled.

Mediums

A series of experiments on the statistical evaluation of impressions given by mediums at proxy sittings, which was begun in 1947 and mentioned in the last Annual Report, was completed in 1948. Many mediums co-operated, including Mrs Methven and Mrs Eileen Garrett, and over a hundred psychometry readings were subjected to analysis. No evidence was found that the medium's statements were any more applicable to the proxy sitter than to persons for whom they were not intended. The Catalogue Method of assessment mentioned in the last Annual Report *Journal*, Jan. 1948, p. 148), while more sensitive than most statistical

methods that can be applied to such material, yielded only chance results on the sittings to which it was applied. The method was discarded because it was not proof against spurious results due to bias in annotation. Other experiments of a qualitative kind were carried out with the medium available and a long report on the whole of the work was prepared. This is available for consultation but has not been published owing to the consistently negative character of the results.

A report on similar work carried out by Dr Pratt of Duke University was published in the December 1948 number of the *Journal of Parapsychology*. Making use of experience gained in all these experiments Mr C. S. O'D. Scott, Mr A. M. Western, and the Research Officer are at present engaged in devising a new method for the treatment of mediumistic material.

During the year the Society acquired a Webster wire recorder, a convenient portable apparatus, silent in operation, which is being used for taking sound recordings of sittings with mediums. Listening to these records the experimenter can detect shades of meaning and emphasis which would be extraordinarily difficult to convey by means of contemporary shorthand notes. He can tell when the sitter sounds confident or definite in affirming or denying the medium's remarks. He can hear how the medium responds to the sitter's tone of voice and manner of speaking. He can note the significant pauses and hesitations faithfully produced by the recording, and critical passages can be played back as desired. These advantages make it possible to study the technique of different mediums. Unfortunately, those so far tested have given little material of interest. The remarks made are, in general, vague in the extreme, and when more specific their normal origin is only too obvious.

Some attempt is being made, with the aid of the recording machine, to test how much sitters can remember of their interview with a medium. The gross errors of omission, which are a notable feature of the sitter's recollections, may be due to the small degree of interest aroused by most of the sitters, and to the same cause may perhaps be attributed the infrequency of distorted memories.

Physical Mediums

Since the publication (*Journal*, January 1948) of the null result of the prize offer to physical mediums, the situation has remained unchanged. Well-known physical mediums continue to give demonstrations and seances to their followers without any sign of willingness to submit to S.P.R. investigation.

Psychic News for July 10th, 1948 contained a letter from Mr G. A. Muirhead, one of the electricians responsible for the installation of the microphone and loudspeakers used at the Kingsway Hall during Leslie Flint's public demonstrations of alleged direct voice. Mr Muirhead was puzzled, for if the voice came from the medium inside the cabinet on the stage, he could not understand why the sound picked up by the microphone outside the cabinet was not muffled and distant. On November 20th, 1948, by courtesy of the organisers of the meeting, the Research Officer and a small S.P.R. Committee tested the microphones at the

Kingsway Hall and found that the voice of a person speaking from inside the cabinet was picked up perfectly well.

Some members have expressed surprise that investigators do not accept as proof of genuineness the evidential quality of the 'spirit' messages delivered from the platform at the public meetings of direct voice and other mediums. In point of fact even more startling pieces of correct information are given in similar situations by entertainers without psychic powers. For instance, at the Magic Circle show at the Scala Theatre last October, a Mr *Pseudo* delivered scores of messages to members of the audience (not confederates) of a quality exceeding anything ordinarily heard at demonstrations of platform mediumship. More recently the broadcast performance of Maurice Fogel puzzled many people (see *Journal* for October-November 1948). So long as it is feasible either for possible accomplices of the medium to attend the performance or for the medium to have access to the names of box-office bookings, then any messages given, however applicable they may be, cannot be safely regarded as evidence of the supernatural.

Psychic Healers

There have been during the year an unusually large number of press reports of supposed cures accomplished by Harry Edwards, Peggy Parish, and other spirit healers. A careful watch has been kept on the correspondence columns where patients have described their cures, and in the most striking reported cases the patients have been approached for further information. The investigation has shown that few, if any, of the 'cures' transcend what might reasonably be expected to come about as a result of normal psychological processes. It is especially noteworthy that conditions in which variability and remissions of symptoms are a normal characteristic (as in disseminated sclerosis and chronic forms of arthritis) give rise to the majority of the spirit healers' successful 'cures'.

There are many common conditions which do not usually show spontaneous improvement (such as diabetes, carcinoma, valvular disease of the heart) but these are rarely found among 'psychic cures'. It is true that in *Psychic News* for January 10th, 1948, a correspondent signing himself J. Couzen claimed to have been cured of diabetes, but investigation showed that the address given on the letter was non-existent, and neither Mr Edwards nor *Psychic News* reporters were able to trace the writer.

Miscellaneous

A case of supposed communications in an unknown tongue was investigated and reported in the *Journal* for September 1948. Another case, in which messages in Hindustani are said to have been received through a medium ignorant of that language, is still under investigation. An effort is being made to re-examine and appraise the well-known *Rosemary* case, in which communications were received by Dr Wood in what was believed to be Ancient Egyptian.

Mirin Dajo, the Dutch fakir, who died a few months ago, believed himself invulnerable and had thrust swords through his chest and abdomen. A collection of all the available information on his phenomena is being made, and it is hoped that a report will be published in the *Journal*.

(iii) EXPERIMENTS BY MEMBERS

Since May 1948 Mr Fraser Nicol and Mr Edward Osborn have been carrying out E.S.P. experiments with subjects who have what appear to be telepathic experiences in everyday life. Fifteen persons have acted as percipients, and a total of nearly 10,000 guesses has been recorded in what the experimenters regard as the exploratory stage of their work. They have been using a 'vision-box' designed by Mr Michael Terry. This equipment eliminates the need for audible signals to keep the agent and the percipient in step, and makes it possible for the agent, the percipient, and the agent's experimenter to be in three separate closed rooms. By means of an electric circuit a series of five symbols or pictures is presented to the agent in a random order. Other experimental methods are also being used.

Mr Parsons has begun a series of postal tests of E. S. P. using coloured counters in a frame.

(iv) PRESIDENCY

Mr W. H. Salter was re-elected President for 1948. On February 14th, 1948, he delivered his Presidential Address, which has since been printed in *Proceedings*,

(v) CHANGES IN THE COUNCIL

During the year the Council has suffered a severe loss through the death of the Hon. Mrs Alfred Lyttelton, G.B.E., who had been a member of the Council since 1928 and was President in 1933-34. An obituary notice will shortly appear in *Proceedings*.

Mr Redmayne, an elected member, felt compelled to resign owing to inability to make regular attendance at Council meetings. To fill this vacancy on the Council, Dr A. J. B. Robertson, a co-opted member, was appointed. Brigadier Firebrace, a co-opted member, also resigned. Mr J. F. Nicol was co-opted a member of Council.

(vi) OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

In January, the Assistant Secretary, Miss Horsell, was appointed Secretary of the Society. In April Mr Denys Parsons was appointed Joint Hon. Secretary. Dr West, who had been appointed Editor of *Proceedings* at the beginning of the year, resigned this post in July, and Mrs Salter agreed to resume for a time the position of Hon. Editor which she had held for many years until 1946. In March Mr Edward Osborn was appointed Hon. Editor of the *Journal*, and at the same time he kindly consented to organise the publicity work for the Society, including the revision of the literature issued to applicants for membership and to new members. In January Miss N. J. Lord was appointed clerical assistant.

(vii) PUBLICITY

The pamphlet *Telepathy and Allied Phenomena* (1s.) by Mrs Heywood, with a section on experimental E.S.P. by Dr Soal, was published in

January, and *The Society for Psychical Research: An Outline of its History* (2s.) by the President, Mr Salter, in June. Both these pamphlets have commanded a good sale, as has also the first pamphlet descriptive of the Society's work. Dr Soal's Myers Memorial Lecture, delivered in November 1947, has been published under the title of *The Experimental Situation in Psychical Research* (2s.) and has attracted much attention.

In January a Discussion Meeting was held at Caxton Hall, under the Chairmanship of Viscountess Rhondda, at which points arising out of the four Lectures delivered in the same place during the preceding autumn were debated.

Requests for lecturers to address meetings are continually being received from many different kinds of organizations and educational establishments in various parts of the country, and as far as practicable these requests are complied with. The Council would like to express their thanks to the members of the Society who, often at considerable personal inconvenience, have consented to give lectures, so as to increase public interest in the Society's work. They hope it may be possible for members resident in the provinces to organise groups which would sponsor public meetings in the larger cities and towns, and they would point to the enterprise of the Manchester Psychical Research Institute in making psychical research better known in that city.

(viii) LIBRARY

Pursuant to the policy mentioned in the last Annual Report a number of books has been bought, and it is intended to make further purchases to keep the Society's Library up to date, particularly in the departments of psychology and psychiatry.

Good use of the Library continues to be made by members and by the National Central Library in the borrowing of books. During the year 915 books were borrowed by members of the Society and 71 by the National Central Library. It is intended shortly to issue an improved reading list of books recommended by the Council.

(ix) MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

During the year 132 new members and 6 Student-Associates were elected. The total loss in membership from deaths, resignations and other causes, was 54 Members and 6 Associates, leaving a net increase of 78 in the total membership, which now stands at 947.

(x) PUBLICATIONS

One part of *Proceedings* was published during the year, Part 175, and eight numbers of the *Journal*, of which two numbers were available for sale to the public.

The Secretary's sales to the general public amounted to £93 14s. 9d. and members of the Society £82 9s. 7d.

(xi) MEETINGS

Public Lecture

30 Jan. Discussion Meeting at Caxton Hall, S.W. 1.

General Meeting

14 Feb. Presidential Address by Mr W. H. Salter.

Private Meetings

- 22 Jan. 'Hand-writing in Automatic Script' by Mr James Leigh.
 30 Apl. 'Where and What is the Mind?' by Dr Robert Eisler.
 5 June 'Hypnosis and Psychical Research' by Mr Eric Cuddon.
 3 Nov. 'The Physiology and Psychology of Trance' by Dr William Brown.
 7 Dec. 'Psychical Research and the Scientific Approach' by Mr G. W. Fisk.

Discussion Meetings

- 5 Feb. 'Anticipated Reactions' by Mr C. Mifelew.
 12 May. 'The Direct Voice' by Brigadier R. C. Firebrace.
 25 May. 'The Training of the Psi Faculty' by Dr L. J. Bendit.
 17 June. 'The Prediction of Mental Reactions' by Mr C. Mifelew.
 1 July. 'Some Metaphysical Aspects of Prevision' by Professor Denis Saurat.

A Course of Lectures on Practical Psychical Research

- 16 Oct. 'How to investigate and report on a Case' by Mr W. H. Salter.
 19 Oct. 'How to conduct simple E.S.P. Experiments' by Mr D. Parsons.
 21 Oct. 'Hints on Visiting Mediums' by Mrs K. M. Goldney.
 26 Oct. 'Psychology in Psychical Research' by Miss I. Jephson.
 28 Oct. 'Some Practical Problems in Investigation' by Dr D. J. West.
 2 Nov. 'An Introduction to Statistics' by Dr S. G. Soal.
 4 Nov. 'Statistics applied to Psychical Research' by Dr S. G. Soal.
 6 Nov. A 'Brains Trust' on Practical Psychical Research.

 5 Oct. A Film Show at which a Dutch film on magnetic healing was shown.

1947	EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
	To Ninth Myers Memorial Lecture. Further Payments :		By Interest on Investments (Nett)	
	Printing	£144 5 0	" Income Tax Recovered and Recoverable	£21 2 6
	Lantern Slides	5 5 0	" Interest on Deposit Account	10 2 6
			" Sale of Lectures	0 9 0
£42	Lecturer's Fee			8 1 6
10	Hire of Hall and Sundry Expenses	£149 10 0		£39 15 6
£52			" Balance Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	109 14 6
		<u>£149 10 0</u>		<u>£149 10 0</u>

BLENNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND

£30	To Grant to The Society for Psychical Research Endowment Fund		£34	By Interest on Investments (Nett)	£21 9 11
	" Postages	£30 0 0	"	" Income Tax Recoverable	20 18 11
4	" Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	12 7 10			
£34		<u>£42 8 10</u>			<u>£42 8 10</u>

RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

£325	To Salaries—Research Officer	£375 0 0	£452	By Interest on Investments (Nett)	£420 13 5
92	Clerical Assistant	244 10 0	195	" Income Tax Recovered and Recoverable	121 6 11
60	Sittings with Mediums	£619 10 0	30	" Grant from Blennerhassett Fund	30 0 0
37	Travelling and General Research Expenses	17 12 0	10	" Donations—Mrs Wenberg	£12 0 0
	Mass-Observation for Survey on Hallucinations	37 8 3		Mrs Richards for advertisement for percipients	7 4 0
	Experiments by Mr Nicol and Mr Osborn	36 9 0			
	Advertisements for Percipients	15 7 0			
25	Apparatus	7 4 0			
148	Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year			" Balance Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	£591 4 4
£687		<u>£733 10 3</u>			<u>142 5 11</u>
					<u>£733 10 3</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1948 GENERAL FUND

1947	EXPENDITURE		1947	INCOME	
	To Office Expenses:		By Subscriptions:		
£240	Rent -	£240 0 0	Members (1944)	£2 2 0	
57	Rates -	66 19 4	(1947)	10 10 0	
11	Insurance -	21 9 11	(1948)	1,317 12 2	£1,330 4 2
79	Fuel and Lighting -	81 0 7	Associates (1948)	- - -	87 3 0
250	Salary, Secretary -	275 0 0	" Proportion of Life Members Subscriptions	- - -	£1,417 7 2
23	Clerical Assistance -	14 16 0	" Interest on Investments (Nett)	- - -	68 5 0
242	Cleaning and Caretaker's Wages	261 2 1	" Income Tax Recovered and Recoverable	- - -	213 15 3
121	Stationery and General Printing -	138 4 11			69 15 2
19	Telephone -	22 2 5			
120	Postages -	146 2 9			
62	Repairs -	188 2 3			
16	Sundry Expenses -	25 5 1			
£1,240		£1,480 5 4			
	Cost of Printing and Binding Publications:				
242	Proceedings -	£355 11 7			
304	Journal -	299 2 0			
24	Pamphlets -	208 1 3			
£570		£862 14 10			
238	Less Proceeds of Sales -	175 6 1			
£332		687 8 9			
54	Expenses of Meetings -	39 1 11			
175	" Pension—Miss I. Newton -	175 0 0			
21	" Audit Fee -	21 0 0			
8	" Library -	26 10 6			
	" Legal Expenses -	17 6 0			
	" Apparatus—Recording Machine -	58 18 6			
	Total Ordinary Expenditure	£2,505 11 0			
			£1,739	Total Ordinary Income	£1,769 2 7
				Donations:	
				Mr A. M. Andrew	£0 9 0
				Miss L. M. Taylor	0 5 0
				Miss K. E. Watkins	2 2 0
				Mr D. G. Lewis	6 0 0
			11		8 16 0
			£1,750	Total Income	£1,777 18 7
			80	Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	727 12 5
			£1,930		£2,505 11 0

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1948

1947	LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
£1,274	<i>Myers Memorial Fund :</i>		<i>Myers Memorial Fund :</i>	
	Balance at 1st January, 1948	£1,274 12 11	Cash at Bank	£52 19 8
	Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	109 14 6	Income Tax Recoverable	5 1 3
			Investments at Book Value as per schedule	1,106 17 6
				£1,164 18 5
1,544	<i>Blennerhassett Research Fund :</i>		<i>Blennerhassett Research Fund :</i>	
	Balance at 1st January, 1948	£1,543 14 9	Cash at Bank	£25 3 8
	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	12 7 10	Income Tax Recoverable	20 18 11
			Investments at Book Value as per Schedule	1,510 0 0
				1,556 2 7
£2,818				£2,721 1 0
18,833	<i>Research Endowment Fund :</i>		<i>Research Endowment Fund :</i>	
	Balance at 1st January, 1948	£18,832 17 9	Cash at Bank and in Hand	£993 4 8
	Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	142 5 11	Income Tax Recoverable	54 6 10
			Investments at Book Value as per Schedule	17,643 10 4
				18,691 1 10
156 150	<i>Sundry Creditor</i>		<i>General Fund :</i>	
	Annual Subscriptions received in Advance		Cash at Bank and in Hand	£557 5 2
	Sundry Creditors		Amounts not yet received for sales of Publications	15 13 10
	<i>Life Membership Account :</i>		Income Tax Recoverable	45 9 5
	Balance at 1st January, 1948	£1,134 0 0	Investments at Book Value as per Schedule	9,585 12 10
	Add Life Subscriptions received during year to date	136 10 0		
		£1,270 10 0	Office Furniture, Library, etc. (Purchases prior to 31st December, 1946 remaining unvalued)	£104 17 6
	Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account	68 5 0	Additions during year	41 15 2
		£1,202 5 0		
1,134	Balance being 50% of existing Life Members' Subscriptions		Less Sale of Second-hand Chairs	£146 12 8
			Payments in Advance	24 14 0
				121 18 8
				7 3 11
£23,091				£31,745 6 8
				Forward

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) 31 DECEMBER 1948

	1947 £23,091	Forward	£22,865 10 1	1947 £32,900	Forward	£31,745 6 8
<i>Special Donations :</i>						
Mrs Richards for Special Fund	-	£25 0 0				
Mr H. A. W. Candler for						
Special Investigation	- £89 10 0					
Expended	- 15 0 0	74 10 0				
			99 10 0			
<i>General Fund :</i>						
Balance at 1st January, 1948	-	£9,808 13 9				
Less Excess of Expenditure over In-	-					
come for the year	-	727 12 5				
		£9,081 1 4				
		300 14 9				
9,809		8,780 6 7				
£32,900		£31,745 6 8		£32,900		£31,745 6 8

Report of the Auditors to the Members of the Society for Psychological Research :

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books. We have examined the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Accounts which are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given us the said Accounts give the information required by the Companies Act 1948 in the manner so required and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 31st December, 1948 and the Income and Expenditure Accounts give a true and fair view of the Society's revenue transactions during the year ended on that date. We have also verified the investments of the General, Research Endowment, Myers Memorial, and Blennerhassett Research Funds.

4 February, 1949

MIALI, SAVAGE, AVERY & Co.,
Chartered Accountants,
9 Idol Lane, Eastcheap, E.C. 3

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

	Nominal	Book Value	Value 31st December 1948
<i>Myers Memorial Fund :</i>			
3½% Conversion Stock 1961 - - -	£250 0 0	£287 10 0	£266 5 0
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - -	750 0 0	819 7 6	775 15 7
		<u>£1,106 17 6</u>	<u>£1,042 0 7</u>
<i>Blennerhassett Research Fund :</i>			
2½% Defence Bonds - - - -	Sold		
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88 (New Purchase) - - -	1,510 10 10	<u>£1,510 0 0</u>	<u>£1,514 5 6</u>
<i>Research Endowment Fund :</i>			
4% Consols - - - - -	1,460 0 0	£1,699 1 6	£1,595 1 0
3% Funding Stock 1959/69 - - -	2,300 0 0	2,504 2 6	2,394 17 6
3% War Stock 1952 or after - - -	800 0 0	864 0 0	828 0 0
London & North Eastern Railway 4% Debenture Stock - - - -	Converted		
Great Western Railway 5% Rent Charge Stock - - - - -			
5% Guaranteed Stock - - - -			
London Midland and Scottish Railway 4% Preference Stock - - - -			
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88 - - - - -	6,626 1 5	6,472 17 11½	6,642 12 9
London Passenger Transport Board 3% Guaranteed Stock 1967/72 - - -	Converted		
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1967/72 - - - - -	514 0 0	539 14 0	515 5 8
3% Defence Bonds (Part redeemed) - - -	600 0 0	670 5 0	628 17 6
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - - -	3,157 9 2	3,449 9 5	3,265 19 9
2½% Australia Stock 1967/71 - - -	995 2 9	1,040 10 0	987 10 10
2½% Consolidated Stock (New Purchase) -	504 3 8	403 10 0	403 7 1
		<u>£17,643 10 4</u>	<u>£17,261 12 1</u>
<i>General Fund :</i>			
2½% Annuities - - - - -	Sold		
2½% Consols - - - - -	Sold		
4% Consols - - - - -	86 11 11	£100 15 4	£94 11 11
3½% Conversion Stock - - - - -	Sold		
3½% War Stock - - - - -	Sold		
York 3% Redeemable Stock 1955/65 - - -	800 0 0	848 0 0	845 0 0
Australia 3% Stock 1955/58 - - - -	250 0 0	262 10 0	258 8 9
Nigeria 3% Stock 1955 - - - - -	1,200 0 0	1,272 0 0	1,236 0 0
London Midland and Scottish Railway 4% Debenture Stock - - - - -	Sold		
London Midland and Scottish Railway 4% Preference Stock - - - - -	Sold		
East India Railway Deferred Annuity Class D - - - - -	23 8 0	590 17 0	557 4 3
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - - -	3,000 0 0	3,240 2 3	3,103 2 6
3% Savings Bonds 1955/65 (New Purchase)	1,664 12 4	1,703 10 3	1,737 8 10
Australia 3½% Registered Stock 1965/69 (New Purchase) - - - - -	1,500 0 0	1,567 18 0	1,563 15 0
		<u>£9,585 12 10</u>	<u>£9,395 11 3</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1948

GENERAL FUND

[illegible]

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) 31 DECEMBER 1948

		Forward	£22,865 10 1	1947 £32,900	Forward	£31,745 6 8
1947 £23,091	<i>Special Donations:</i>					
	Mrs Richards for Special Fund	-	£25 0 0			
	Mr H. A. W. Candler for					
	Special Investigation	- £89 10 0				
	Expended	- 15 0 0	74 10 0			
			99 10 0			
	<i>General Fund:</i>					
	Balance at 1st January, 1948	-	£9,808 13 9			
	Less Excess of Expenditure over In-	-				
	come for the year	-	727 12 5			
			£9,081 1 4			
			300 14 9			
9,809	Less Loss on Sale of Investments	-	8,780 6 7			
£32,900			£31,745 6 8	£32,900		£31,745 6 8

Report of the Auditors to the Members of the Society for Psychological Research:

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books. We have examined the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Accounts which are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given us the said Accounts give the information required by the Companies Act 1948 in the manner so required and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 31st December, 1948 and the Income and Expenditure Accounts give a true and fair view of the Society's revenue transactions during the year ended on that date. We have also verified the investments of the General, Research Endowment, Myers Memorial, and Blennerhassett Research Funds.

4 February, 1949

MIALl, SAVAGE, AVERY & Co.,
Chartered Accountants,
9 Idol Lane, Eastcheap, E.C. 3

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

	Nominal	Book Value	Value 31st December 1948
<i>Myers Memorial Fund :</i>			
3½% Conversion Stock 1961 - - -	£250 0 0	£287 10 0	£266 5 0
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - -	750 0 0	819 7 6	775 15 7
		<u>£1,106 17 6</u>	<u>£1,042 0 7</u>
<i>Blennerhassett Research Fund :</i>			
2½% Defence Bonds - - - -	Sold		
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88 (New Purchase) - - -	1,510 10 10	<u>£1,510 0 0</u>	<u>£1,514 5 6</u>
<i>Research Endowment Fund :</i>			
4% Consols - - - - -	1,460 0 0	£1,699 1 6	£1,595 1 0
3% Funding Stock 1959/69 - - -	2,300 0 0	2,504 2 6	2,394 17 6
3% War Stock 1952 or after - - -	800 0 0	864 0 0	828 0 0
London & North Eastern Railway 4% Debenture Stock - - - - -	Converted		
Great Western Railway 5% Rent Charge Stock - - - - -			
5% Guaranteed Stock - - - - -			
London Midland and Scottish Railway 4% Preference Stock - - - - -			
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88 - - - - -	6,626 1 5	6,472 17 11*	6,642 12 9
London Passenger Transport Board 3% Guaranteed Stock 1967/72 - - -	Converted		
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1967/72 - - - - -	514 0 0	539 14 0	515 5 8
3% Defence Bonds (Part redeemed) - - -	600 0 0	670 5 0	628 17 6
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - -	3,157 9 2	3,449 9 5	3,265 19 9
2½% Australia Stock 1967/71 - - -	995 2 9	1,040 10 0	987 10 10
2½% Consolidated Stock (New Purchase) -	504 3 8	403 10 0	403 7 1
		<u>£17,643 10 4</u>	<u>£17,261 12 1</u>
<i>General Fund :</i>			
2½% Annuities - - - - -	Sold		
2½% Consols - - - - -	Sold		
4% Consols - - - - -	86 11 11	£100 15 4	£94 11 11
3½% Conversion Stock - - - - -	Sold		
3½% War Stock - - - - -	Sold		
York 3% Redeemable Stock 1955/65 - - -	800 0 0	848 0 0	845 0 0
Australia 3% Stock 1955/58 - - -	250 0 0	262 10 0	258 8 9
Nigeria 3% Stock 1955 - - - - -	1,200 0 0	1,272 0 0	1,236 0 0
London Midland and Scottish Railway 4% Debenture Stock - - - - -	Sold		
London Midland and Scottish Railway 4% Preference Stock - - - - -	Sold		
East India Railway Deferred Annuity Class D - - - - -	23 8 0	590 17 0	557 4 3
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - -	3,000 0 0	3,240 2 3	3,103 2 6
3% Savings Bonds 1955/65 (New Purchase)	1,664 12 4	1,703 10 3	1,737 8 10
Australia 3½% Registered Stock 1965/69 (New Purchase) - - - - -	1,500 0 0	1,567 18 0	1,563 15 0
		<u>£9,585 12 10</u>	<u>£9,395 11 3</u>

REPORT ON A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

BY R. H. THOULESS

IN October 1948 I paid a short visit to the United States to attend the second Wittenberg Symposium on 'Feelings and Emotions' which was organised by Dr Reymert and took place at Chicago and Mooseheart. For this opportunity I am indebted to the Loyal Order of Moose who paid the expenses of those participating in the symposium. Professor Rhine very kindly made possible from the funds of his department the extension of my visit to include a week at Duke University.

On the way to Chicago, I spent a few days in New York. It was a great pleasure to meet Professor Gardner Murphy and other members of the American S.P.R. Both amongst the members of the American S.P.R. at New York and in The Parapsychology Laboratory at Duke University, I found a warmly expressed admiration for the work that our Society has done and a keen interest in the activities and personalities of its leading members.

At City College, New York, I attended a session of Dr Schmeidler's experiment in which she is attempting to discover whether there is any relationship between psi capacities and personality traits as revealed by the Rorschach Test. This is carried out as part of her work with a class of psychology students studying the Rorschach Test. I was only able to see the part of her work in which she was testing the psi capacities of her class. It seemed to be an interesting experiment, which may give useful results if the somewhat unfavourable conditions in which psi capacities are tested do not prevent the appearance of positive results in sufficient quantity to give significant correlations with the personality measurements.

A later visit to New York on the way back gave me the opportunity of seeing an E.S.P. research carried on by the Research Assistant, Mrs Dale, and Dr Woodruff in which they are attempting to relate success in E.S.P. work with the attitude of the subject towards the experimenter.

The week that I spent at the parapsychological laboratory of Duke University was full of interest. I have corresponded with Professor Rhine for twelve years and have got to know him well without having met him in the flesh. It was a great experience to overcome this deficiency and also to meet Mrs Rhine and all those members of the laboratory staff whose names I had known from their various contributions to the *Journal of Parapsychology*. I cannot express too warmly my gratitude to them all for their cordial reception of me and for the generosity with which they gave their time to showing me everything that was to be seen in the laboratory and elsewhere.

During the week that I was there, I was able to see something of all the work that was going on and to participate as subject in most of the experiments. I had the impression of enthusiastic and well-directed activity. The laboratory has moved far from the tendency of early days to concentrate on repetitions of experiments under uniform conditions in order to

pile up odds against a chance explanation. This, indeed, is clear to any reader of the *Journal of Parapsychology*. There are now many different types of experiments going on, each carefully designed to provide answers to a specific problem.

Professor Rhine himself, in the intervals between the times occupied by care of his laboratory and a world-wide correspondence, is engaged with Mrs Rhine on a study and classification of paranormal case-histories obtained from our own *Proceedings* and other sources. He regards these as having a usefulness not yet fully exploited in providing guidance to future directions of experimental research.

Mrs Rhine is also about to start a new investigation of P.K. with dice in an automatic thrower which has been constructed by Mr Scherer. The laboratory has too a more elaborate automatic device for the same purpose which includes photographic record of falls. I did not see this apparatus since it is being used by Dr McConnell at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr Pratt has just completed a method of evaluating mediumistic material which appears to be completely rigid and to avoid the pitfalls in previously suggested methods. I had, however, the impression that it might prove to be too insensitive to be of much practical use. Whether or not this is the case must be determined by trying it out.

Dr Betty Humphrey was doing a 'help-hinder' experiment in P.K. with dice. In this I acted as one of her subjects.

I also took part in an E.S.P. experiment with Miss McMahen in which there were card-guessing experiments and also experiments with coloured marbles on 5×5 boards. Of these, one was of contemporary Ψ_γ while others involved precognition of arrangements to be determined at various periods later than the experiment.¹

Mr Skibinsky was carrying out an experiment of somewhat complex design with dice-throwing and precognition of the order of a pack of cards to be cut at a point to be determined by a chance method after the guessing was completed. I was also a subject for two sessions of this experiment.

Mr Kapchan had an ingenious method of singularisation of cards in E.S.P. experiments under conditions favourable to the formation of visual imagery. He encloses the cards in opaque envelopes and throws the shadows of these on to a ground-glass screen. I did not act as subject in this experiment, but it seems to be a method of experimenting which may prove to be more fruitful than those now generally used.

I also saw Mr Scherer's 'hunch-box' for recording E.S.P. attempts under conditions in which there is complete freedom for the subject to make an attempt whenever he feels like it. This, too, is a method of experimenting which seems to promise to be much more fruitful of results than the more conventional methods. I hope that I was able to persuade Mr Scherer to make a more adequately designed test of this brilliant idea than that already reported in the *Journal of Parapsychology*.

The parapsychological research at Duke University is not entirely confined to the laboratory itself, since Professor Rhine manages to infect workers in other departments with his own enthusiasm. An example of

¹The symbol Ψ_γ (psi-gamma) is used by Dr Thouless for the cognitive psi process (extra-sensory perception or paranormal cognition), and Ψ_κ (psi-kappa) for the motor psi process (or psycho-kinesis)—Ed.

an interesting parapsychological research taking place in another department was an investigation by Miss Hickman of the possibility of a P.K. effect on the germination of seeds.

One of the questions which every European psychical researcher is inclined to ask himself about the Parapsychology Laboratory at Duke University is why the workers there manage to secure positive scores from a larger proportion of the subjects tested than any that have been obtained on this side of the Atlantic. I have been inclined to suppose that the answer was that at Duke University a tradition of success has been established which affects favourably any new subject coming there for testing. He succeeds because he expects to succeed. That may be part of the answer, but my visit led me to suspect the presence of another factor. Rhine's laboratory appears to be a happy social group knit together by mutual good-feeling and free from those mutual suspicions and hostilities which are often found amongst research groups. We have reason to suspect that an experimental atmosphere charged with suspicion and hostility is unfavourable to psi functioning, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the opposite atmosphere of confidence and mutual affection is one favourable to successful results.

Whatever may be the reason, I am able to report that at Duke University I was able to score successfully myself both in E.S.P. and in P.K. experiments at a considerably higher rate than I have ever succeeded in attaining elsewhere. My best psi-gamma result was in a precognition experiment in which I acted as subject to Mr Skibinsky. Here the task was to predict the final order of a pack of E.S.P. cards called 'down-through' and cut at a point determined by means of dice and cards after the prediction had been made. In my best set of guesses I scored 12 right out of 25. The odds against as large a deviation happening by chance is .0004 which remains comfortably significant if we take into account that this was the best of two experiments carried out and the best of eight runs in that experiment (particularly since the second best was a score of 10).

I was also very successful in Dr Betty Humphrey's 'help-hinder' experiment in psycho-kinesis. In this experiment, two subjects are aiming at targets which have been determined by the throw of a die which targets are unknown to the experimenter and to the other subject until the check-up. The subjects alternately throw two dice from a cup, each subject throwing 36 times. After each set of 36 throws, the targets are exposed and the results checked. My total deviation on 24 such sets (1728 single die throws) was +38. This score was comfortably significant, the odds against a deviation as large as this occurring by chance being 70 : 1. An advantage of this experimental design is that the scores obtained when the other subject is throwing and the targets are different cannot be attributed to skilled throwing since the person throwing does not know my target and, if she knew it, she would be trying to avoid it. My rate of scoring was considerably higher when Miss McMahan was throwing and we had different targets. I had a deviation under these conditions of +25 in 720 single die falls, with a significance slightly greater than that of the complete series (about 80 : 1).

Positive results were also obtained in other tests which were not separately significant. With Mrs Dale in New York I scored a positive deviation of +11 in D.T. calling of 20 randomised E.S.P. packs. My only failure was in Mr Skibinsky's P.K. test, in which I scored positively on my first day of working with him but obtained a larger negative deviation at my second sitting on my final afternoon. I think, however, that the technique of this experiment is a good one and I am now succeeding at home with a modified form of it. On the whole, however, my success as subject at Duke University has not been reproduced at home. In the past I have had moderate success in a series of Ψ_γ experiments and in one Ψ_K experiment.¹ The first of these was in a series of guesses of playing cards by the G.E.S.P. method reported in *The British Journal of Psychology* (July 1942). Here I obtained a +2 displacement with success at the rate of a little less than two per cent. The one successful P.K. experiment was that reported in the *Proceedings of the S.P.R.* (August 1945). In a series of ten experiments with spun coins, success was obtained in the first four but the remaining six experiments gave only chance results. There are, therefore, strong indications that there is something about the laboratory at Duke University which has, at any rate in my case, favoured psi success.

One can only speculate as to what that factor is. If there is anything in my suggestion that the friendly and harmonious social relations within the research group are part of the reason for their relatively high rate of success, my own success there may be partly due to the cordiality with which I was received into that group. I think also that part of the explanation may be the total absence of worry and responsibility which is the privilege of a well-cared-for guest. It is impossible to reproduce at home the care-free attitude of one temporarily cut off from all his work, correspondence, and other sources of anxiety. It was noticeable that I succeeded less well during the last afternoon of my stay at Duke, when my mind was occupied with anxieties about my departure and an address that I was giving to the Psychology Department just before leaving.

In addition to the week spent at Duke University, I gave lectures to the American Society for Psychical Research in New York and to the new Society for Parapsychology which has been organised by Mr Darnell at Washington. In both cases there was keen and interesting discussion which showed the liveliness of interest in this subject at these centres in the United States. To all the members of these societies and to the Parapsychology Laboratory at Duke University, I am deeply indebted for their invariable kindness and hospitality.

EDITOR'S NOTES

NOTABLE recognition for psychical research is given by the inclusion in the ninth issue of *Science News* (published by Penguin Books) of an article entitled 'Telepathy'. This is by Dr E. J. Dingwall and Denys Parsons,

¹See footnote on p. 15.

and it gives an excellent summary of the development of scientific evidence on this subject. In an editorial comment it is stated that 'Psychical research is still not a respectable subject to the vast majority of laboratory workers'. It is therefore greatly to the credit of the authors that their 'enormous experience of psychical research, encyclopaedic knowledge of conjuring, and acutely critical minds' enabled their work to be included in such a conscientiously scientific periodical.

* * *

The last issue of the *Journal* contained a statement by the stage 'mind-reader', Maurice Fogel, to the effect that he does not claim paranormal powers. How he performed the feat of giving correct information about members of the studio audience in his broadcast of December 6th has since been revealed by a reporter on the staff of *The People*, Mr Arthur Helliwell. In the issue of January 9th, Mr Helliwell wrote :

I have since been in touch with two of the three people selected from the studio audience. Both Mrs Hill and Mr Taylor had the same story to tell. While they were queueing outside the Paris Cinema for the 'Starlight Hour' broadcast [which immediately preceded Mr Fogel's] they were approached by a man who said he was a representative of the B.B.C. and who asked whether they would be staying on for Fogel's performance. They were then given copies of an evening paper and requested to carry them. Mrs Hill was asked to write her name, address, and the name of her favourite piece of music on a pad and she was given the slip to retain. Mr Taylor was asked to print his name and occupation. It was, therefore, hardly surprising, when those members of the audience carrying evening papers were invited to the front of the hall and later on to the stage, that Fogel was able to 'mind-read' that a Mrs Lily Hill was present, that she came from Romford and that she was thinking of 'The White Dove'. Or that Mr Ronald Taylor was 'an engineering draughtsman'.

Crude though the method was, it has its lessons for practitioners of psychical research.

* * *

Mr Henry Ridley, F.R.S., sends examples of experiences involving hallucinations attributable, in his view, to the revivification in the memory, by some external stimulus, of some scene or occurrence perhaps long forgotten. One of these experiences, all of which took place many years ago, is described by Mr Ridley as follows :

Our old housekeeper, Anne Cartwright, lived at the end of her life in a room on the top floor of this three-storied house till she died in December 1925. At this time two sisters were doing the housework for me. Old Anne, when she wanted to call one of them, would call her by name, and if not heard would drop a penny which fell into the hall on the ground floor. In 1927 the girls in the kitchen were at lunch when they both

heard her voice calling 'Lilee, Lilee, Lilee' (three times) in her usual tone, followed by the fall of the penny which they *both* heard ringing on the floor. Lily got up from the table and asked her sister, 'There is Cartwright calling; what have you forgotten from her lunch-tray?' and went into the hall and was looking for the dropped penny when she recalled that the old lady had been dead for two years. Nothing of the kind has occurred in the house since.

In Mr Ridley's view this was an example of a 'memory-ghost', probably induced by some noise resembling the fall of a penny.

Members will be interested to know that Mr Ridley is the oldest surviving member of the Society, having joined it on its foundation in 1882. He was one of the three founders of the Oxford Phasmatological Society in 1879, and did experiments with Myers, Gurney, and Podmore. At the age of 93 his interest in psychical research is as keen as ever.

* * *

In the last issue of the *Journal* was published a letter from Mrs M. E. Hone in connection with experiments described in the issue for May 1948. Owing to a misunderstanding the letter was printed in an abbreviated form. The passage omitted is as follows:

It seems to me a pity that these two experiments should have been published, as, to any experienced student of Dowsing it is obvious that they give a wrong impression of the subject. The failures were due, not to the taking of precautions (as suggested by Dr West) but to the lack of other precautions necessary in those particular tests. For instance, the attempt to find pipe-lines so close to the conflicting power of the pumping station was bound to be a failure. The lack of technique in the tunnel test is also obvious.

Those who wish to see these views elaborated in detail may apply to Mrs Hone for the document referred to in the letter published over her name in the last issue of the *Journal*.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE PSI PROCESSES

SIR,—It pains me to have to say so, but Drs Thouless and Wiesner have not really grasped my point of view. No doubt the fault is mine; perhaps you will therefore permit me to clarify.

The argument that was intended to bear the weight of my case was that patients suffering from softening of the occipital lobe can *see* written words, but cannot *understand* them. Surely, if mind and brain were separate, they could also understand them, for, by hypothesis, these words have reached the mind—otherwise the patients could not see them. To continue the 'musical-box and violin' metaphor; on the Thouless-and-Wiesner hypothesis of a separate mind, the words must have reached the

musician. Why, then, does he not understand them? This is a much subtler argument than any the psychologist and the biologist gave me credit for using.

I said distinctly that there may quite well be truth in the entelechy; I did *not* deny it altogether. What I actually did say was that it is incredible *in Driesch's form*. Drs Thouless and Wiesner admit the organiser hormones. How, then, can they possibly believe Driesch's view that the entelechy acts *directly*? At the best, it can, perhaps (if it exists), slightly modify these hormones after generations.

My own guess, which is no more or less valuable than anyone else's in the present state of knowledge, is as follows: The brain is conscious matter. Since reason and free-will are intuitively perceived as valid, the brain, acting as a mind, may initiate physical processes, which would, therefore, have no physical origin. It seems to me to be probable that the nervous system produces a force that is unknown outside the animal body. If so, this force may be mind-saturated, and may consequently be responsible for telepathy.

I have now exposed my own breast to the ball!

Yours etc.,

BASIL SMITH

REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF TESTS IN PARAPSYCHOLOGY. By Betty M. Humphrey. Durham, N.C., Parapsychology Laboratory, Duke University, 1948. 152 pp. Illus.

This very useful book might well have been called 'Handbook of American Parapsychology' since the tests described are exclusively those in current use at Duke University. There is no account, for instance, of the methods of English experimenters like Carington or Tyrrell. The present reviewer has always found it difficult to remember the connotation of American terms like BT, OM, STM without referring to a glossary. But then Dr Humphrey and Dr Rhine would probably be equally mystified by such formulae as TTN(30)S or T2OTN(30) which we have had to invent for recent English experiments in telepathy.

One great virtue of Dr Humphrey's handbook is the commendable clearness and simplicity of her descriptions of procedure. Many of these indeed could hardly be bettered. One of her aims has been to simplify the processes of evaluation of results to such a point that they can be correctly applied, not only by persons whose mathematical equipment is nil, but also by those whose arithmetic is of the most rudimentary order. Such simplification is of course not without its dangers. There is nothing to prevent the trustful tyro from taking up a single pack of Zener cards, scoring a ten by luck, and then claiming that, since his critical ratio is 2.5, he has demonstrated E.S.P. There is also an over-simplification (p. 45) of the formula for the standard deviation of the difference of two means used for testing whether one E.S.P. condition is superior to another. It is here assumed that the standard deviation for a run of 25 guesses is equal to 2

whereas if E.S.P. is at work in one or both conditions it may considerably exceed 2. In fact the *observed* variances should have been used and not the variance for chance matching.

There are admirable chapters on such subjects as Clairvoyance, tests for Pure Telepathy, Precognition, and on the more controversial topic of Psycho-Kinesis. There is a lucid and fairly detailed account of E.S.P. tests with drawings by the matching technique but no account of the catalogue method. Perhaps the least satisfactory chapter is that on Group Tests with E.S.P. cards (pp. 72-74). In these experiments a class of thirty or forty or more persons guess at the *same* pack of Zener cards. There is no indication whatever that in this case the ordinary tests for significance fail and that there are serious objections to the use of even Stevens' formula for the variance. Suppose for example there were a general tendency for people to write a cross and a circle for their first two guesses and that the first two cards in the shuffled pack happened to be these two symbols in this order. A spurious effect would be produced not due to E.S.P. It is probably true that by running through a sufficient number of well-shuffled packs the effect could be partially eliminated but who could say that in a given experiment the effects and distortions due to 'order preference' were *precisely* eliminated? This indeed is one of the chief obstacles in the way of a radio experiment with Zener cards.¹

While on the subject of card guessing, it has always been a matter of surprise for me that the use of packs of cards containing exactly five of each symbol has not yet been abandoned in America in favour of random distributions compiled from tables of random numbers. In ordinary experiments, of course, shuffled packs of Zener cards probably serve well enough and slight deviations from randomness have no serious effect on either expectation or variance. Still, the mathematical pundits have to be appeased, for to them the shuffling of packs of cards is anathema. Further, in problems dealing with displacement, some of the formulae for variance become extraordinarily complicated if one uses packs containing exactly five of each symbol.

I am pleased to note that the book contains a chapter on the influence of the experimenters and personnel on the results of E.S.P. tests. To the attitude of the experimenter insufficient attention has been given by English investigators. I think there is no doubt whatever that certain experimenters fail consistently to secure positive results even when supplied with E.S.P. subjects of genuine capacity. It is probably not a question of intelligence or even enthusiasm on the part of the investigator but rather of some subtle personality relation which is difficult to analyse. To take an example from another field of human activity, the late Sir Percy Nunn once remarked to me that there are persons of high intelligence, energy, and general capacity who yet are completely incapable of controlling a class of thirty children and this despite all their perseverance and conscious efforts. He also confessed that he was unable to analyse the reasons for such failure. Possibly a somewhat similar situation arises when an experimenter makes contact with a touchy and sensitive E.S.P. subject. So far as the present writer has been able to judge—by a purely superficial

¹ But see T. N. E. Greville, 'On Multiple Matching with one Variable Deck' (*Ann. Math. Statist.*, 1944, 15, 432-4).

observation of the problem—one factor which probably makes for success is simplicity of approach on the part of the experimenter. Any parade of elaborate precautions and fussiness of manner is to be avoided. Precautions, of course, there must be against sensory leakage and errors in recording, but these should be as unobtrusive as possible and taken as a matter of course. Again, it is useless to introduce persons who are uncongenial to the medium. Further, I think it helps if the people who assist in the experiment have some sort of common mental background—for instance, the agent and experimenters may be teachers and friends from the same college, rather than persons of different environment and ways of life. At the same time I am sure that Dr Humphrey's final sentence on p. 116, 'If he (the experimenter) can inspire confidence and excite interest easily, he is quite certain to succeed,' is palpably untrue. It would be truer perhaps to say that a person able to inspire confidence will *robably* succeed *if he is lucky enough to discover a subject endowed with E.S.P. capacity.*

Many scores of persons in England have been carrying out experiments in telepathy but successful experiments are indeed rare! Are we to believe that *all* these experimenters are lacking in the ability to inspire confidence? Statements such as the one I have cited from p. 116 which are in contradiction to obvious fact are to be regretted.

The final chapter of the handbook contains some interesting suggestions for future research in extra-sensory perception.

S. G. SOAL

THE CRISIS IN HUMAN AFFAIRS. By J. G. Bennett. London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1948. xvi, 239 pp. 8s. 6d.

The author, who has been a pupil of Ouspensky, has incorporated in this book a good deal of the teaching of G. I. Gurdjieff. He attributes the present crisis in world affairs largely to the grossly exaggerated estimate which, for the last 2,500 years, man has entertained of himself as a temporal being. This over-belief in his importance and his power to achieve his ends is called 'Megalanthropism'. Man, as a normally conscious being, fails to implement such ends as he has in view; neither are his efforts consistent. 'We can verify by experiment,' says the author, 'that we have no power of choice and very, very little freedom.'

Selfhood, it is strongly emphasised, is an illusion; for nowhere does the self appear as an object of thought. The knower is not to be found among the known: therefore there can be no knower. We are personalities rather than selves; and personalities are described as 'well-defined groupings of experience'. Inevitably the question arises: Who experiences the experiences? In the sequel, selfhood is reinstated; not, however, in the form of a single self, but of many: for the author holds that we are legion.

The essence of the conception of man which is here set forth is that '*he is a nothing that can become something*'. His importance lies, not in what he is at the present moment, or in what he achieves in the world around him, but in his potentiality for self-creation. This self-creation takes place, not in time, but in eternity. The author's conception of eternity is likely to

raise difficulties in the reader's mind. It is not an unending temporal series ; nor is it remote from life in time. Eternity and Time are represented as being interwoven. From one point of view, eternity is regarded negatively as timelessness. In an attempt to represent it more positively, the author endows it with characteristics which are the opposite to those of time. Time is characterised by transience, successiveness, and irreversibility : eternity by potentiality, structure, and freedom of movement—potentiality, apparently, because potential energy is regarded as eternal on account of the contrast it bears to kinetic energy, which runs down in time. The innate structure, teleological in its essence, which pervades organic life, is also regarded as extra-temporal or eternal. Freedom in the spatio-temporal world is here said to be almost non-existent ; but it is manifested in eternity. Values also are eternal. Then, strangely enough, there occurs a footnote in which eternity is identified with a fifth dimension! (p. 184).

Since values can never be grasped by the kind of thought described as ' pragmatic ', they stand apart from science as evidence for the eternal factor in man. One of the most important ideas in the book is that the human being can attain different states of conscious awareness which carry with them different kinds of potentiality.

If the ' megalanthropic ' illusion, which now pervades the world, could be overcome, and man could cease to regard himself as ' the measure of all things ', life would no longer be regarded as what the author calls ' psychostatic '. Man would concentrate on his growth in eternity : human successes and human failures would give rise neither to excessive optimism nor excessive pessimism. These things would not be ends in themselves, but passing incidents in the story of man in his efforts to find himself.

This higher wisdom, of which the world stands so sorely in need, can only be derived from schools—no doubt the author is thinking of those of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky. The few enlightened ones must, through the agency of schools, pass on to the world their vital knowledge. But even so, the author does not believe that our present civilization can escape disaster.

Despite the many unresolved difficulties which this book, perhaps inevitably, presents, the underlying thought is both interesting and significant ; and it is to be hoped that many will read between the lines more than is actually set down.

G. N. M. TYRRELL

THE MYSTERY OF ANNA BERGER. By George Godwin. (The Thinker's Library, No. 130.) London, Watts, 1948. 226 pp. 3s. 6d.

This novel was first published in 1935 and has now been reprinted for the purpose, apparently, of drawing attention to the different points of view regarding the nature of the stigmata.

Anna Berger is an Austrian peasant who is afflicted with what are thought to be hysterical and nervous attacks which at times seem strangely mingled with a form of religious ecstasy. In dealing with the case two points of view are presented. On the one side we have the family's medical adviser who is of opinion that the case is one of hysteria and who becomes exceedingly interested when the stigmata appear. On the other is Father Schumann, a worthy priest, who is convinced that abnormal psychology has no

explanation to offer, and that the truth lies in the sphere of the supernatural, although he is careful to point out that these phenomena may stem from either the diabolic or the divine. As the story develops, both theories are presented with considerable skill and fairness, although I cannot help thinking that a more detailed knowledge of the nature of the stigmata as revealed to us from the case of Louise Lateau would have given Mr Godwin material for a livelier exposition.

In dealing with the physical phenomena of mysticism the psychical researcher is faced with almost the same problem as that encountered with spiritualistic mediums in whose presence objective manifestations are reported. Roman Catholics resist independent investigation just as much as spiritualists; and it cannot be denied, I think, that occasionally this resistance is due to a suspicion, if not a knowledge, of possible fraud. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that at the present day Roman Catholic authorities are chary of sponsoring too openly cases of stigmata which are reported, although at the same time it must be remembered that the fascinating occurrence of the liquefaction of the blood of St Januarius is not regarded with disapproval by the ecclesiastical authorities in Naples. However that may be, cases of stigmata present important problems which are both physiological and psychological, and Mr Godwin has succeeded in writing a readable little story which, if it does no more than amuse and divert its readers, will have amply fulfilled the author's purpose.

E. J. DINGWALL

THE JOURNAL OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY, Vol. XII, No. 3, September 1948.
Durham, N.C., Duke University Press. \$1.25.

Professor Sorokin's book *The Reconstruction of Humanity* led Professor Rhine to write to the author asking his opinion of the social importance of parapsychology. Professor Sorokin wrote a reply expressing his agreement with the idea that research into parapsychology is of great social importance. This reply is printed in the Editorial.

There is an appreciation by J. Fraser Nicol of the contributions to parapsychology made by Whately Carington.

The series of articles on a research programme for parapsychology during the next ten years has now reached a considerable length. It is useful to have an excellent summary of the whole series which has been made by Hornell Hart and Betty Humphrey. It is interesting to note how much parallelism there is between the ideas of different contributors.

A shortened form of the article by R. H. Thouless and B. P. Wiesner on 'The Psi Processes in Normal and "Paranormal" Psychology' has been reprinted from the *Proceedings* of the Society for Psychical Research.

Dr Betty Humphrey reports that the selected best psi scores of a group of subjects correlate better with intelligence test results than do total scores. She suggests that this may be the best measure to use in correlating psi scores with personality assessments. The suggestion seems to be one worth bearing in mind, since attenuation of correlation coefficients may result from the dilution of genuine psi scores with chance ones when total psi scores are used.

There are two belated but interesting contributions to the ten years' research symposium in the form of letters from Dr Ullman and Dr Bendit. Both are concerned with the implications for psychotherapy of the study of psi.

R. H. THOULESS

DONATIONS

The Council acknowledge with warmest thanks the following donations to the Society's funds :

A. M. Andrew	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£	0	9	0
H. A. W. Candler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9	10	0
David J. Lewis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	0	0	0
Denys Parsons (towards printing costs)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0	0	0
Mrs Clarice Richards (to start a fund for increasing the Society's resources)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	0	0
Miss L. M. Taylor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	5	0	0
Miss K. E. Watkins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	0	0

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

THE 441st Meeting of the Council was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, on Wednesday, 3 November 1948, at 4.0 p.m., the President, Mr W. H. Salter, in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and signed as correct. Thirteen new Members and five Student-Associates were elected. Their names and addresses are given below.

The 442nd Meeting of the Council was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, on Thursday, 9 December 1948, at 3.0 p.m., the President, Mr W. H. Salter, in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and signed as correct. Nine Members and one Student-Associate were elected. Their names and addresses are given below.

The resignation of Mr G. Redmayne from the Council was accepted with much regret. Dr A. J. B. Robertson was appointed an elected member of Council to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Redmayne.

MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

THE 201st Private Meeting of the Society was held in the Society's Rooms on Tuesday, 7 December 1948, at 6.30 p.m., when a paper entitled 'Psychical Research and the Scientific Approach' was read by Mr G. W. Fisk.

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY ROBERT MACLEHOSE AND CO. LTD.
THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, GLASGOW